

have done for the oil and gas industry in this country translates into a problem for all Americans.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. This reminds me of when a football team or a basketball team hires a new coach. They get a coach and usually give him a 5-year contract and give the coach a chance to go out and get their recruits and get them into the system. If you are not winning by the time you have your system in place and your players on your team or your draft picks on your team, by the fifth year, done. You go. Right? You had your chance.

That is exactly what my friend from Massachusetts was saying: This Republican Congress has been in charge since 1994. The President has been in since 2000. The Senate is controlled by Republicans and has been for at least 10 years, with a brief period of Democratic control, barely. They have had a chance to make their implementations, put their policies into place, energy, immigration, taxes, whatever the case may be.

It hasn't worked. It is time to get new coaches, time to get new players, time for a new draft. In November of 2006, we have a draft. What we are saying is here is our agenda. Here are the plays we are going to run, the innovation agenda, the energy agenda, the real security agenda.

I can guarantee you, there is going to be nobody on the Democratic side when we take over this House in November of 2006 that you are going to be able to put in place of the President here holding hands with one of the most powerful oil leaders in the entire world, Mr. MEEK.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. RYAN, Mr. DELAHUNT, I did jot down a couple of notes here before we came to the floor.

Mr. Speaker, I just want to share a little bit with the Members of the facts, not fiction.

I am not a Member with a conspiracy theory, but I am here to say that we know that Republicans, I am going to point out where they, Mr. DELAHUNT, have blocked Democratic efforts to deal with the price gouging situation. Now they are running for political cover and scrambling to join Democrats. That is actually an article in the Washington Post from May of 2006. The Democratic ideas about energy independence, conservation and efficiency that benefits all of Americans, they are now trying to pick up those ideas and trying to run with them. But it is not a good faith effort, because the oil industry will not allow them to do so. We know about the Vice President CHENEY's secret energy task force/working group with big oil to write the Bush-Cheney and Republican Congress energy plan.

That was in the Washington Post, Mr. Speaker, in case the Members want to get a copy of it, 11-16-05.

Bush-Cheney and the Republican colleagues gave their backing to big oil, \$20 million in royalty fees for drilling. That is the New York Times, 2-14-06.

Also the New York Times, 3-29-06. You can get these articles if you want to read up on them.

Last year, \$9.5 billion in subsidies in last year's energy bill went to the oil companies. \$9.5 billion. \$16 billion first quarter profits for the top three oil companies. That is the Washington Post, 4-28-06.

Record CEO salary pack packages. Look this up if you want to. This is not the Kendrick Meek report. This is what is being reported on ABC News, 4-14-06.

Big oil companies have given to Bush-Cheney and Republicans more than \$20 million in campaign contributions. Congressional Daily a.m., that is 4-28-06. I will be happy to share this, and this will be on the Web site later.

More than \$70 million to Bush and his Republican colleagues since 2000. Republican Daily, a.m., that is the local magazine here that is printed here in the Capitol, 4-28-06.

Eighty-four percent of big oil and gas campaign contributions went to Republicans in the last 24 months, Congressional Daily a.m., 4-28-06.

This is not put out by the Democratic Party or the DNC or any of these groups. These are news organizations that are just reporting on what is going on here in the Capitol.

Bush-Cheney got more than \$2.6 million in '04 from the oil companies, Congressional Daily a.m. 4-28-06.

The cost of corruption to the American people, when you talk about this kind of influence that is going on here, this unprecedented giveaway to the big oil companies, \$3 per gallon, the oil price doubled since 2001. Almost \$75 per barrel of oil, up from \$44 a year ago. That was reported on 5-3-06.

I think it is also important, I just want to point out, when folks talk about, okay, you are reporting news that we might have already read, Republicans voted against the tough penalties we talked about and price gouging, \$100 million on corporations, as well as up to \$1 million in fines or 10 years in prison or both for individuals. That was CQ vote 500, H.R. 3402, 9-28-05. Republicans rejected that.

They rejected another one where we came back with even tougher penalties, up to \$3 million with the same penalties, vote 517, H.R. 3893, and that was 10-7-05. It goes on with other votes they rejected. Another one on 10-7-05. We tried it time after time again, Mr. Speaker. The Republican majority has blocked these measures that we have tried to put forth.

There is no question, Mr. DELAHUNT, if we were in the majority, we wouldn't be on the floor talking about what was blocked.

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We will be on the floor talking about what we passed. Maybe just maybe, Mr. RYAN and Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, that question of price gouging, the question of preying on the backs of the American people who are just trying to drive their kids to school, trying to go

to work, trying to be a part of the American dream, small businesses are scratching their heads saying, do we have to go up on a per-unit cost in the hardware store because of the fuel prices?

Maybe just maybe it would not be a discussion if this special interest did not have the Republican majority blocking for them and legislating on their behalf. So when we see those letters that are written by the Republican majority in the House or the Senate to the President saying, well, maybe we need to do this, and maybe we need to do that.

People that do not have power write those kind of letters, not the individuals that are in power. I am going back to your point, Mr. DELAHUNT, because you are saying if you are in charge, I am not talking about if you just picked up power last year. I am talking about double digit years, a majority in this House, a Republican President that has been in office since 2000. Now it is 2006.

Because I guarantee you, if this was 2002, Mr. DELAHUNT, they would be talking about, well, this is Bill Clinton's fault. But they cannot say it with a straight face. So I am going back to your original point, Mr. DELAHUNT. And I know you have a couple of articles to share with us tonight. I am really looking forward to those articles because I think it is important that we continue to bring out the third party validators.

I think that is the reason why, Mr. Speaker, that the 30 Something Working Group, we get the nod from people here in this Capitol, be it Republican, Democrats or Independents who work here. They are saying, we appreciate, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, what you all do on the floor, of sharing with folks of what is happening here in this Capitol building.

Because I can tell you that at no other time in the history of this country did we have the kind of over spending, the borrowing, the reach of the private sector into this great country, this democracy of ours, and having the kind of influence that they have and having this lady here, who is just trying to make her way out of nowhere, putting gas in her tank.

She is probably squeezing the pump saying, I cannot go over \$30 because I am already outside of my budget. Meanwhile, there are folks running around here with suits being driven in black limos with \$4 million pension plans, \$150,000 a day in a pension plan. And then we got folks out in Mr. RYAN's district that are being laid off that do not even know if they are going to have a pension when it is all over.

Mr. DELAHUNT. Mr. Speaker, I guess the question is to the majority in this House and to this administration, where have you been? What have you done? Well, you passed last year the so-called Energy Policy Act. And that basically provided welfare to Big Oil. It produced in excess of \$14 billion of tax incentives and subsidies to Big Oil. All